

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph at page 13, lines 31-35, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The dermis (matrix) thus decellularized is washed well, preferably with a biocompatible solution such as a phosphate buffered saline. The dermal matrix thus washed can be used as the acellular dermal matrix of the present invention without further treatment, or it can be ~~frozen for storing~~ kept in cold storage before use.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 16, line 29 through page 17, line 2, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The acellular dermal matrix obtained in Treatment 2 was washed well with a phosphate buffered saline and then ~~frozen for storage~~ kept in cold storage. At the same time as this, it was confirmed that there was no growth of bacteria or fungi by subjecting a part of the dermal matrix to bacterial and fungal culture. Furthermore, it was confirmed by a pathological test involving hematoxylin eosin staining that there was no abnormality in the dermal collagen structure and that the dermis was completely acellular.

Please replace the paragraph at page 25, lines 11-18, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The acellular dermal matrix obtained in Treatment 2 is washed well with a phosphate buffered saline and then ~~frozen for storage~~ kept in cold storage. At the same time as this, it is confirmed that there is no growth of bacteria or fungi by subjecting a part of the dermal matrix to bacterial and fungal culture. Furthermore, it is confirmed by a pathological test involving hematoxylin eosin staining that there is no abnormality in the dermal collagen structure and that the dermis is completely acellular.